

contracts contain provisions for the binding arbitration of disputes under those contracts. Such arbitration provisions are enforceable only if they are consensual.

The underlying problem with the mandatory arbitration portion of H.R. 800 is that in addition to depriving employees of the right to disapprove of the arbitrators' "agreement", it would destroy collective bargaining by eliminating the role of economic power and injecting procedural requirements for a fair adjudication or rulemaking proceeding that are inconsistent with collective bargaining. A labor negotiation is a contest of economic power, fundamentally different than an adjudication or rulemaking. Any attempt to graft direct government determination of the terms and conditions of employment onto a law promoting private decision-making through collective bargaining is bound to fail. The two cannot be reconciled.

I stand firm behind my vote against H.R. 800 and fully support a Presidential veto of the bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was unable to vote March 9th of this year. I would like the record to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes.

On rollcall vote No. 132 I would have voted "yes." On rollcall vote No. 133 I would have voted "no." On rollcall vote No. 134 I would have voted "yes." On rollcall vote No. 135 I would have voted "yes."

IN MEMORY OF RICHARD AND VIRGINIA DOAK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Doak of Stover, MO.

Richard L. Doak was born on December 24, 1922, and was the second of seven children to the late Grace and Edgar Doak. Upon completion of high school, Richard became a student at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His college education was interrupted to volunteer for service in the United States Army in World War II. On August 19, 1944, he married Virginia Ray McClesky and soon after completed his undergraduate education, receiving a B.S. in Agriculture. He again served his country as an infantry platoon leader, 7th Division, 31st (Polar Bear) Regiment, Charlie Company, during the Korean War. In honor of his commitment to the U.S. Army, he was awarded both the Silver Star for gallantry in combat and the Bronze Star for meritorious service. After his service, the Doaks returned to Missouri where they would raise their four children on the family farm. Mr. Doak later earned a master's degree in Education from

the University of Missouri-Columbia, and served as a teacher at Payne School and as an elementary school principal at Hallsville, Jefferson City, and Versailles, MO. In 1985, Richard retired from teaching and returned to work on his farm raising and showing Southdown sheep.

Virginia Ray (McClesky) Doak was born on December 8, 1922, in King, Texas, to Estelle and Henry McClesky. Virginia graduated from high school in Gatesville and attended the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. After receiving her degree, Virginia taught school at Purlmela and Plainview in Texas and Payne School in Missouri. On August 19, 1944, she married Richard Doak, a Missourian she had met while he was stationed at Fort Hood. While raising a family in Missouri, Virginia remained close to her family in Texas and looked forward to visiting them at Christmas and during the summer.

Madam Speaker, Richard and Virginia Doak were great friends of mine and were valuable members of the Stover community. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to their family.

TRIBUTE TO THELMA CLARK

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 12, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a community activist that touched many lives throughout her 79 years as a resident of Youngstown, Ohio. Thelma Clark, who was born in Youngstown on August 15, 1927, passed away this past October. Mrs. Clark graduated from The Rayen School and later went on to graduate from the Choffin School of Nursing as a licensed practical nurse. She worked at Northside as well as Southside Hospital, but Thelma Clark's career as a nurse is not what her family and friends will think of when reminiscing about her life.

Thelma Clark's most significant and lasting impact on the Youngstown community came through her many organization memberships and dedication to those organizations. Maybe no better example of this was her steadfast faith and love of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, to which she was a member for 63 years. Thelma served as the secretary for the church for 25 years and also played an important role as the official church historian.

Through her constant commitment to urban development and advancement of African Americans in the community, Thelma Clark was a shining example to her many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Mrs. Clark was a member of the local branch of the NAACP for 52 years and served as 2nd vice president of the organization for many of those years. She was a member of the National Council of Negro Women while also serving as a co-chairperson of the Annual Negro College Fund Banquets.

These are just a few of the many activities that became intrinsically connected to the life of Thelma Clark. In addition, Mrs. Clark was a member of the Pink Carnation Club, treasurer of the McGuffey Football Boosters Club, and a member of the Parent Booster Club of the Boy Scouts.

Learning about people like Thelma Clark and the proactive and selfless life that she led,

gives me a great sense of inspiration and optimism for the future of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. The scope of Thelma Clark's influence on current and future generations is immeasurable, and I am deeply honored to have represented her.

WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my extreme disappointment over the deplorable living conditions that our brave men and women of the Armed Services have been subjected to upon returning home from their courageous service in Iraq.

How can the same administration that is calling on these young soldiers to put their lives in harm's way over and over again, allow them, after they are subsequently injured, to come back to these shameful living conditions?

As a veteran, myself, I am truly ashamed and appalled. When our brave warriors are treated like second class citizens, after being injured fighting for the values and interests of this country, it sends a very dangerous signal to those presently serving in Iraq, as well as to those who are considering serving their country through military service.

Let us fix this mess today, and make the welfare of our Armed Service members a real priority, instead of treating them like pawns in this administration's war games.

WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 569, introduced by my colleagues Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. CAMP. This bill would reauthorize a grant program that expired in 2003, which authorized grants to States and municipalities to combat the problem of combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows. I was proud to be an original co-sponsor of this legislation.

In 2001, the EPA estimated there were 772 communities in the country that have combined sewer systems, including all of the communities in my district: Boston, Cambridge, Chelsea, and Somerville. The EPA also estimated that to address these problems would cost communities \$50.6 billion for CSOs and an additional \$88.5 billion to address SSOs. These enormous costs cannot be borne by the communities alone.

Since the Clean Water Act was first passed in 1972, the condition of our Nation's waters has improved greatly. H.R. 569 demonstrates a renewed commitment by Congress to clean water by providing targeted assistance to address two large outstanding problems still affecting water quality, CSOs and SSOs. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.